

**BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT**

Claims 27, 29, 30, 33-35, 53, 55, 56 and 59-61 have been canceled. Amended Claim 9 includes the limitations of Claims 9 and 27. Amended Claim 31 includes the limitations of Claims 9 and 31. Amended Claim 36 includes the limitations of Claims 36 and 53. Amended Claim 57 includes the limitations of Claims 36 and 57.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 9-14 and 16-26, 28, 31, 32, 36-52, 54, 57, 58 will now be active in this application.

**REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Shosho for indicating allowability of Claims 27-34 and 53-60 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

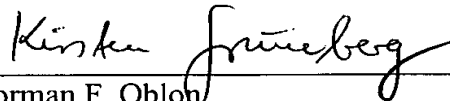
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Amended Claim 9 includes the limitations of allowable Claim 27. Amended Claim 31 includes the limitations of Claim 9 and allowable Claim 31. Amended Claim 36 includes the limitations of allowable Claim 53. Amended Claim 57 includes the limitations of Claims 36 and allowable Claim 57.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No.: 24,618

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
NFO:KAG:

Kirsten A. Grueneberg, Ph.D.  
Registration No.: 47,297